

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a zipper bearing carrier web comprising the steps of:

providing a zipper profile including a first interlocking profile element with a first flange extending in a first direction from said first interlocking profile and a second flange extending in a second direction from said first interlocking profile and a second interlocking profile element with a first flange extending in a first direction from said second interlocking profile and a second flange extending in a second direction from said second interlocking profile, said first and second interlocking profile elements being interlocked to each other;

advancing a first continuous strip of carrier web in a machine direction; and

attaching discrete sections of said first flange and said second flange of at least one of said first and second interlocking profile elements oriented in the machine direction at predetermined spaced intervals to said first continuous strip of carrier web to form a supply of carrier web with pre-positioned sections of zipper profile.

2. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 1 comprising the further steps of advancing a second continuous strip of carrier web and positioning said discrete sections of said first flange and said second flange of said at least one of said first and second interlocking profile elements between said carrier webs.

3. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 2 comprising the further steps of simultaneously attaching each discrete section of said first and second flanges of said first interlocking profile element to said first continuous strip of carrier web and said first and second flanges of said second interlocking profile element to said second continuous strip of carrier web.

Claims 4-9 – (canceled)